

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement of a wheel balancing machine including a housing and a wheel balancing shaft, the wheel guard arrangement comprising a wheel guard member,
and a mounting device for mounting the wheel guard member on the housing of the balancing machine movably between an open position in which the wheel guard member is arranged substantially vertically and a closed position in which the wheel guard member is arranged in a substantially horizontal arrangement over the shaft of the balancing machine,
wherein the wheel guard member includes a frame supported on the ~~machine~~ housing and movable between the open and the closed positions and a flexurally elastic plate guided by the frame, the flexurally elastic plate in the open position being of a substantially flat shape and in the closed position being deformed in an at least substantially arcuate configuration.
2. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim 1, wherein the plate has a longitudinal extent, the arrangement further including
at least three support locations for supporting the plate in the its longitudinal extent of the plate on the ~~machine~~ housing.
3. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim 1
wherein the flexurally elastic plate is mounted to the ~~machine~~ housing by means of the frame.
4. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim 1 including means for mounting the frame pivotably to the ~~machine~~ housing.
5. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim 2 including

means for fixedly connecting the flexurally elastic plate to the frame at at least one of the support ~~location~~ locations and

means for supporting the plate on the frame movably with respect to the frame at the at least two other support locations.

6. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim 1 wherein the flexurally elastic plate is of a flexurally elastic nature for resilient return from the at least substantially arcuate ~~shape~~ configuration into the substantially flat shape.

7. (Original) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim 1 wherein in the closed position the flexurally elastic plate is approximately in the shape of a circular arc.

8. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim 2 wherein the plate has first and second ends and a central region and the support locations on the plate are arranged at least in respective regions ~~the region~~ of the ends of the plate and substantially in the central region of the plate.

9. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim 2 wherein a ~~said~~ support location is provided at ~~the~~ an end of the plate in ~~the~~ a region of the mounting device.

10. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim 9 including means for guiding the plate movably with respect to the frame at the support location in the region of the mounting device.

11. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim 8 wherein the plate has a longitudinal extent, the arrangement further including

means for guiding the plate in the central region of the longitudinal extent ~~thereof~~ of the plate movably at the support location disposed there.

12. (Original) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim 11 wherein the support location arranged substantially in the central region of the plate has at least one support element at which the plate is movably guided.

13. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim 2 wherein the support location substantially in the central region of the plate is arranged above the shaft of the balancing machine in ~~said~~ the closed position of the mounting device.

14. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim ~~[[2]]~~ 8 wherein the support locations at the ends of the flexurally elastic plate in ~~said~~ the closed position of the mounting device are arranged substantially at the height of the shaft of the balancing machine.

15. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim 2 wherein the support locations at the ends of the flexurally elastic plate in the ~~said~~ closed position of the mounting device are arranged slightly above the height of the shaft of the balancing machine.

16. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim ~~[[2]]~~ 8 including
a support device mounted in use pivotably to the ~~machine~~ housing
wherein the support location substantially in the central region of the plate is arranged at the ~~said~~ support device.

17. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim ~~[[2]]~~ 8 including

a support device mounted in use stationarily to the ~~machine~~ housing wherein the support location substantially in the central region of the plate is arranged at the said support device.

18. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim 16 wherein the support device is a pivotable lever which is arranged in ~~the~~ a closed position of the support device substantially parallel to the frame.

19. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim 18 wherein ~~said lever~~, upon pivotal movement of the lever out of ~~said~~ an open position into a ~~said~~ closed position, the lever has a smaller angle of pivotal movement than the frame.

20. (Original) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim 1 wherein the flexurally elastic plate has an end in opposite relationship to the mounting device fixedly connected to the frame.

21. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim 1 wherein the flexurally elastic plate is ~~[[of a]]~~ multi-layer ~~nature~~.

22. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim 1 wherein the flexurally elastic plate has ends and the frame includes frame members extending transversely with respect to a ~~the~~ longitudinal direction of the plate in the region of the ends of the flexurally elastic plate.

23. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim 16 wherein the plate has an outside and an inside; at ~~the~~ an end of the plate towards the mounting device, the support device bears against the outside of the plate, and in the central region of the plate, the support device thereat bears against the inside of the plate.

24. (Currently Amended) A wheel guard arrangement as set forth in claim 17 wherein the plate has an outside and an inside at the end of the plate has an end towards the mounting device, the support device bears against the outside of the plate, and in the central region of the plate the support device thereat bears against the inside of the plate.

25. (Currently Amended) In a wheel balancing machine including a housing, a wheel mounting shaft and means for rotatably supporting the shaft in the housing, a wheel guard arrangement comprising

- a wheel guard member,
- a mounting device for mounting the wheel guard member on the housing of the balancing machine movably between an open position in which the wheel guard member is arranged substantially vertically and a closed position in which the wheel guard member is arranged in a substantially horizontal arrangement over the shaft of the balancing machine,

wherein the wheel guard member including a frame supported on the ~~machine~~ housing and movable between the open and the closed positions and a flexurally elastic plate guided by the frame, the flexurally elastic plate in the open position being of a substantially flat shape and in the closed position being deformed in an at least substantially arcuate configuration, and

the plate having a longitudinal extent, at least three support locations for supporting the plate along the in its longitudinal extent of the plate on the ~~machine~~ housing.